



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

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22 JUL 2004

Reply To
Attn Of: OW-134

Anthony D. Johnson, Chairman
Nez Perce Tribe
P.O. Box 365
Lapwai, ID 83540

Toni Hardesty, Director
Department of Environmental Quality
1410 North Hilton
Boise, ID 83706-1255

Re: Approval of SF Clearwater Subbasin TMDLs (HUC 17060305)

Dear Chairman Johnson and Ms. Hardesty:

I am pleased to inform you that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 10, hereby approves the South Fork Clearwater Subbasin TMDLs for waters of the state of Idaho, as submitted on March 17, 2004, and received by EPA on April 2, 2004.

As explained in the enclosed co-issuance document, EPA is also issuing TMDLs for those waters in the South Fork Clearwater subbasin which are within Indian country.

This document establishes 84 TMDLs for sediment, temperature, nutrients, dissolved oxygen, and bacteria in 74 waterbodies listed in Enclosure 1. Amongst these are 58 segments which were not included in the Idaho 1998 303(d) list (denoted with an asterisk). Information which became available during the TMDL development process demonstrates that these non-listed waters are in fact water quality limited segments in need of a TMDL. The State need not include these waters in its next Section 303(d) list for the pollutants listed below now that a TMDL for them has been approved.

This approval only applies to waters for which a TMDL was completed and does not constitute approval for de-listing of waters within Hydrologic Unit Code 17060305 from the Idaho 1998 §303(d) list. Any proposed de-listing of waters will be considered at the time of submission of the next §303(d) list. The TMDL also includes a chapter addressing implementation strategies which the State and Tribe intend to use as a guide to develop specific implementation plans aimed at achieving the necessary reductions called for in the TMDL. EPA's approval action does not extend to the implementation strategies.

We appreciate the commitment and hard work shown by your staff in working through the many difficult issues in these TMDLs. We also want to recognize the significant contributions of the South Fork Clearwater Watershed Advisory Group, which persevered through the three year process and is now developing the TMDL implementation plan. Finally, we want to recognize the many other individuals and agencies who contributed to this TMDL, particularly Nick Gerhardt, USFS, who provided significant technical support.



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By EPA's approval, the TMDLs for these waterbodies is now incorporated into the State's Water Quality Management Plan under §303(e) of the Clean Water Act. If you have comments or questions, please feel free to call me at (206) 553-1261, or Leigh Woodruff at 208-378-5774.

Sincerely,



Michael F. Gearheard
Director
Office of Water & Watersheds

Enclosure

cc: Dick Wilhite, Chairman, SF CWR WAG
Gwen Carter, Water Resources Program Manager, Nez Perce Tribe
Ann Storrar, Nez Perce Tribe
Kerby Cole, IDEQ Regional Administrator
John Cardwell, IDEQ
Tom Dechert, IDEQ
Doug Conde, IDEQ Attorney General
Marti Bridges, IDEQ TMDL Program Manager
Kristin Boyles, Earthjustice